

Message Text

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40

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 111430Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6291

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2211

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS AMB KEATING

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, UR, IS

SUBJ: SOVIET JEWISH IMMIGRATION

REF: MOSCOW 4646

1. SUMMARY. JEWISH AGENCY SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT SOVIET JEWISH IMMIGRATION IN MARCH (530) WAS LOWEST IN PAST THREE YEARS. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS INCREASED HARRASSMENT OF JEWS WANTING TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. JEWISH AGENCY SOURCE (DOMINTZ) IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL 11 SAID THAT 530 SOVIET JEWS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL DURING MARCH. ANOTHER 37 LEFT VIENNA ON MARCH 31, ARRIVING ISRAEL APRIL 1. DROPOUTS IN VIENNA FOR MARCH TOTALED 371. MARCH ARRIVAL FIGURE, HE NOTED, WAS LOWEST IN LAST THREE YEARS. IN MARCH, 1974, SOME 1,700 SOVIET JEWS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL.

3. JEWISH AGENCY (JA) SOURCE SAID SOVIET POLICY, INCLUDING HARRASSMENT OF EXIT VISA APPLICANTS, WAS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR SUCH LOW FIGURE. SITUATION IN ISRAEL--ABSORPTION
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PROBLEMS AND SECURITY--ALSO FACTORS, BUT THEY MAINLY

INFLUENCE VIENNA DROPOUT RATE RATHER THAN NUMBER
APPLYING FOR EXIT VISAS. BACKLOG OF "VYZOV" (SOME 140,000)
CERTAINLY SUGGEST MORE THAN 800-900 JEWS WANTING TO LEAVE
SOVIET UNION. JA SOURCE ADDED THAT PASSOVER HOLIDAYS IN MARCH
MAY HAVE CAUSED SOME JEWS TO DEFER EXIT VISA APPLICATIONS
TO APRIL. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ABSORPTION MINISTRY SOURCE,
RATE OF IMMIGRATION IN FIRST WEEK OF APRIL SUG-
GESTS ANOTHER LOW MONTH.

4. ABSORPTION MINISTRY SOURCE ADDED THAT SOVIET POLICY
RECENTLY HAS BEEN TO CUT BACK EMIGRATION FROM PERIPHERAL AREAS
OF SOVIET UNION, WHERE THERE ARE MANY JEWS WANTING TO
EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, IN FAVOR OF JEWS FROM CENTRAL URBAN AREAS.
REASON FOR THIS, HE EXPLAINED, IS TO INCREASE DROPOUT RATE,
AS MANY JEWS FROM LARGE CITIES ARE PROFESSIONALS, WITH LIMITED
JEWISH AWARENESS, AND PREFER US TO ISRAEL.

5. UIA CHIEF IN ISRAEL (CHINITZ), IN RECENT CONVERSATION
WITH ANOTHER EMBOFF, EXPRESSED DIFFERENT VIEW OF REASONS
FOR FALL-OFF IN JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR. HE BELIEVES
REASONS ARE A) DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT
IN ISRAEL, B) SECURITY SITUATION IN ISRAEL, AND C) HARASSMENT
BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT, IN THAT ORDER.

6. ISRAELI PRESS APRIL 10 AND 11 CARRIED SEVERAL ARTICLES
ON SOVIET IMMIGRATION. JERUSALEM POST APRIL 10 REPORTED
RECENTLY ARRIVED SOVIET IMMIGRANT MIKHAIL AGURSKY CLAIMING
THAT PROGRESSIVE CHOKING OFF OF IMMIGRATION FROM SOVIET
UNION REPRESENTS COMPROMISE
BETWEEN TWO OPPOSED GROUPS IN KREMLIN: THOSE WHO WANT TO GET
RID OF AS MANY JEWS AS POSSIBLE, AND THOSE WHO DON'T WANT
TO PERMIT JEWS TO GO TO ISRAEL.

7. JP APRIL 11 CITED COMMENTS BY OTHER RECENTLY ARRIVED
IMMIGRANTS FROM SOVIET UNION THAT KGB IS TRYING TO DEAL
"ALIYA" MOVEMENT A FINAL AND FATAL BLOW, THAT LATEST INCIDENTS
OF PERSECUTION ARE PART OF COORDINATED CAMPAIGN WHICH DIFFERS
FROM "ROUTINE PERSECUTION" OF PAST YEARS, AND THAT SITUATION
IN SOVIET UNION IS "FAR WORSE THAN MOST PEOPLE IMAGINE."

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8. POST APRIL 11 CARRIED STORY THAT ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL HAVE APPEALED TO DUTCH
GOVERNMENT TO INSTRUCT ITS EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TO PROVIDE
PROTECTION TO SOVIET JEWS WITH ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP. ASSO-
CIATION ALSO REQUESTED THAT "VYZOV" INVITATIONS SENT FROM
ISRAEL TO RELATIVES IN USSR BE RELAYED THROUGH DUTCH
EMBASSY RATHER THAN THROUGH SOVIET POSTAL SYSTEM. IT
CLAIMS THAT SUCH INVITATIONS ARE NOT REACHING ADDRESSEES

AND SOVIETS ARE INTERCEPTING THEM IN THE MAIL.

9. SOURCE IN JEWISH AGENCY SAID HE IS NOT AWARE OF REQUEST
TO USE DUTCH EMBASSY FOR SENDING INVITATIONS, BUT THERE
HAVE BEEN INCREASING COMPLAINTS THAT INVITATIONS ARE
INTERCEPTED.

DOZIER

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